

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2641

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PINS, MOPS, SU, CG
SUBJ: BRIEFING HOST OFFICIALS ON PARIS MEETING ON ZAIRE

REF: STATE 148408

1. DIRECTOR AMERICA DEPARTMENT IN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RASHEED KHIDER WELCOMED BRIEFING AS PROVIDED REFTEL. HE
REMARKED AFRICAN MILITARY FORCE IS NON-STARTER AND IMPLE-
MENTATION DIFFICULTIES SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE.

2. RASHEED SAID QUESTION OF AFRICAN MILITARY FORCE CANNOT
BE SEPARATED FROM PROBLEM OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA.
SUDAN STRONGLY OPPOSES SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN HORN
OF AFRICA, ACCORDING RASHEED, AND HAS MADE POSITION KNOWN
ALL OVER CONTINENT. HOWEVER, SUDANGOV HAS BEEN LISTENING TO
OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS (NYERERE, KAUNDA) WHO CONTEND THAT
BASIC PROBLEM IS NOT FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
AND APARTHEID. FOREIGN INTERVENTION IS NOT CAUSE BUT
ONE EFFECT OF TURBULENCE CREATED BY RACIST MINORITY
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REGIMES. IN ADDITION, ALL FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN
AFRICA ARE PRESENT AT INVITATION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS.
THEREFORE SUDAN HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO RAISE QUESTION
OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AT OAU MEETING IN KHAR-
TOUM IN JULY. IF QUESTION DOES COME UP, SUDAN IS PRE-
PARED TO REITERATE ITS WELL-KNOWN ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-CUBAN
CONCERNS, BUT RASHEED DOES NOT EXPECT QUESTION TO ARISE.

3. RASHEED SAID CUBANS SEEM TO BE WELCOME IN ANOLA, BUT SOVIETS ARE INCAPABLE OF PROVIDING ANY ASSISTANCE EXCEPT BURDENSOME MILITARY SUPPORT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES, IN CONTRAST TO U.S. AND WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH CAN PROVIDE ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND EVEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. RASHEED BELIEVES USG SUPPORT FOR ROBERTO HOLDEN AND UNITA LEFT AGOSTINHO NETO OF ANGOLA NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT COMMUNIST SUPPORT. PRESUMABLY USG "BACKED WRONG HORSE" BECAUSE OF ROBERTO'S LINKS WITH MOBUTU'S ZAIRE DESPITE OAU'S CONCLUSION IN 1968 THAT MPLA REPRESENTED ONLY LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO ANGOLAN LEADERSHIP, ACCORDING RASHEED. HE SUGGESTED THAT USG EXPLORE WILLINGNESS OF ANGOLA TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S "PREFERENCE FOR DIALOGUE WITH EVERYONE."

4. COMMENT: RASHEED KHIDER SERVED AS AGOSTINHO NETO'S ESCORT OFFICER FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN KHARTOUM IN 1970 AND HAS MET HIM CASUALLY SINCE THEN. AFTER SEVERAL LENGTHLY PROVATE CHATS IN 1970, RASHEED CONCLUDED THAT AGOSTINHO NETI IS ADMIRABLE AND REASONABLE. VERY FRIENDLY TOWARDS U.S. YET BIASED IN FAVOR OF AGOSTINHO NETO, RASHEED BELIEVES USG CAN OFFER ANGOLA AN OPTION TO "USELESS" SOVIET SUPPORT. SUDANESE OFFICIALS IN GENERAL CANNOT UNDERSTANDY WHY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD PREFER SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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TO AMERICA FRIENDSHIP IN LIGHT OF THEIR OWN BAD EXPERIENCE WITH USSR. RASHEED IN PARTICULAR HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD OPPOSE COMMUNISTS MORE AGGRESSIVELY IN AFRICA WITH NON-MILITARY, DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS. BERGUS

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